PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers®

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

Public Notice/Application No.: 200101547-JWM
Comment Period: January 5, 2004 through February 5, 2004
Project Manager: John W. Markham (805) 585-2150 john.w.markham@usace.army.mil

Applicant
Calleguas Municipal Water District
Attn: Eric Bergh, Manager of Resources
2100 Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-6800

Contact
Same as applicant

Location

The proposed project would occur within Peach Hill Wash, an intermittent drainage and tributary to Arroyo Simi. The project location is immediately east of Spring Street, approximately 1000 feet south of Los Angeles Avenue (SR 118) in the City of Moorpark, Ventura County, California. Latitude 35N 16' 33"; Longitude 118W 52' 23" (see attached location map).

Activity

The applicant proposes to permanently fill 0.09 acres (670-feet-long, 6-feet-wide) of Peach Hill Wash in order to construct a potable water pump (relay) station. The station would connect with the existing Calleguas Municipal Water District's water distribution pipeline system, as a component of the Las Posas Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project. Accordingly, the applicant also proposes to redirect this reach of the Wash around the pump station footprint to meet the requirements of Federal Emergency Management Agency flood safety standards. In order to accommodate the current baseflow (primarily residential sources) up to the 100-year storm event, the applicant proposes to install: 1) a concrete inlet and trash rack upstream; 2) a concrete junction structure downstream; and, 3) four 42-inch diameter polyethylene pipe culverts through the project length. For more information see page 3 of this Notice.

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the proposed work, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit will be issued or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1344). Comments should be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
Regulatory Branch - Ventura Field Office
ATTN: CESPL-CO--200101547-JWM
2151 Alessandro Drive, Suite 110
Ventura, California 93001

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: john.w.markham@usace.army.mil

Evaluation Factors

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that will be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material, the evaluation of the activity will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Preliminary Review of Selected Factors

EIS Determination- A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

Water Quality- The applicant is required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. Section 401 requires that any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers prior to permit issuance.

Coastal Zone Management- For those projects in or affecting the coastal zone, the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act requires that prior to issuing the Corps authorization for the project, the applicant must obtain concurrence from the California Coastal Commission that the project is consistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Plan. This project is located outside the coastal zone and preliminary review indicates that it will not affect coastal zone resources. A final determination of whether this project affects coastal zone resources will be made by the Corps, in consultation with the California Coastal Commission, after review of the comments received on this Public Notice.

Cultural Resources- This site is not listed within the most recent revision of the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, no cultural resources were discovered onsite during archeological surveys conducted by Roger J. Desautels in 1978 (Information Center ID# VN112, Simi Quad).

Endangered Species- The endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) has been reported nesting along Arroyo Simi, approximately one mile northeast of the project site. Two populations of the endangered California gnatcatcher (*Polioptera californica*) have been reported nesting in coastal sage scrub habitat within proximity of the proposed project site. A large, well-established population occurs two miles north, and a smaller population occurs approximately one mile east. Neither vireo nor gnatcatcher were observed within the project site during a reconnaissance bird survey conducted on April 1, 2003 by the Applicant's biologist (Matt Ingamells, Padre Associates). The vegetation of the project site is primarily coyote

brush scrub, dominated by coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), with scattered mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*) and mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*). This habitat type is not considered typical of gnatcatcher breeding or nesting territory, but could provide foraging or shelter opportunities for this species. The proposed project would result in the loss of approximately 1.4 acres of coyote brush scrub. The balance of the 20+ acres of habitat along the Peach Hill Wash is zoned as Open Space by the City of Moorpark, and therefore would not be impacted by the proposed project. During the permit review process, Corps Regulatory intends to coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address any listed species concerns.

Public Hearing- Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required

Peach Hill Wash represents a watercourse under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. The proposed project involves the placement of clean, imported fill within non-navigable waters of the United States and is associated with the construction of a level building pad for the proposed Moorpark pump station. The fill would permanently displace approximately 0.09 acres of waters of the U.S. Appurtenant construction would also consist of the installation of: 1) a concrete inlet and trash rack on the upstream end; 2) a concrete junction structure on the downstream end; and, 3) four 42-inch diameter polyethylene culverts throughout the entire (670 linear foot) project reach. Baseflow and storm flow from upstream sources would be directed by permanent berms (earthen foundation, concrete lining) to the inlet structure. Captured flow would then be conveyed under the north perimeter of the Pump Station facilities via four 42-inch diameter polyethylene pipe culverts, terminating at a concrete junction structure. This junction would serve as the connection between an existing 66-inch diameter storm drain and the four pipe culverts. The proposed junction structure would also serve to reduce water velocity and prevent erosion at the culvert outlets. There are no wetlands onsite.

Additional Project Information

This reach of Peach Hill Wash consists of a meandering, intermittent, slightly incised channel with an average width (between the jurisdictional OHWM) of six feet and average depth of one foot. Baseflow appears to be dominated by upstream residential (landscaping) drainage and roadway runoff. This natural section of the Wash is met by a debris/detention basin and spillway approximately 500 feet upstream, and a 66"-diameter underground culvert immediately downstream. The 66-inch diameter storm drain empties into an existing detention basin located immediately north (downstream) of the project site.

The Moorpark Pump Station would be an integral component of the Las Posas Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project. The ASR project will store up to 300,000 acre-feet of imported water in a groundwater basin located northwest of Moorpark when supplies are plentiful, generally during the winter. This stored water will be recovered (pumped from the basin) when imported water supplies are reduced or unavailable, generally during summer peak demand periods, droughts or emergencies.

The Moorpark Pump Station would consist of a pressure-regulating station that would deliver imported water to the basin for storage. During peak demand periods, the Moorpark Pump Station would deliver water extracted from the basin into the existing water distribution system for use by consumers. This particular project site was selected because of hydraulic constraints and land availability. Calleguas Municipal Water District has determined that the pump station must be located in proximity to Calleguas' two existing pressure regulating stations (one of which is on the project site), and that this is the only readily available property within proximity of these stations.

This 670 linear foot reach of Peach Hill Wash would be converted to an underground culvert system in order to prevent flooding of the Pump Station. Specifically, this measure would ensure the safety of the pump station and auxiliary equipment during large (individual or cumulative) storm events, and would satisfy FEMA requirements to effectively convey 100- year surface flows.

The project design includes grass-lined swales to treat on-site run-off prior to discharge to the modified Peach Hill Wash (proposed underground pipe culverts).

Corps Regulatory will be performing an alternatives analysis (alternative sites, alternative designs) in accordance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines (Federal Regulations, 40 CFR 230).

Purpose and Need

The basic project purpose is water supply, whereas the overall project purpose is to effectively distribute/relay water to and from the lower aquifer system of the Las Posas groundwater basin. The proposed project focuses on the regional need to ensure and enhance the reliability of local potable water supplies (seasonally and during drought years), and to reduce dependence upon more costly imported potable water. The Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project allows for efficient use of the imported water by purchasing water during periods when it is plentiful (typically winter to spring), storing it in a local high-capacity (estimated at 300,000 acre-feet) aquifer, and using it during peak periods. Calleguas Municipal Water District has deemed the proposed Moorpark Pump Station an integral component of the ASR Project by providing facilities required to both store imported water and extract stored water.

Compensatory Mitigation

The Applicant has proposed to compensate for unavoidable permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. by contributing to an existing Calleguas Creek watershed In-Lieu Fee Program administered by the California Coastal Conservancy. Although funds contributed to this Program generally are associated with General Permits and enforcement cases, this proposed project may qualify as an exception, as the permanent impact to non-wetland waters is relatively minor (0.09 acre), and on-site restoration opportunities appear to be neither practical nor environmentally preferable. The Corps would recommend a 2:1 replacement ratio, to be applied towards the restoration and preservation of riparian, wetland and upland transition (buffer) habitat within the Arroyo Simi (local) watershed.

For additional information please contact John W. Markham of my staff at (805) 585-2150 or john.w.markham@usace.army.mil. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Branch.

SCHUBEL
CESPL-CO-R

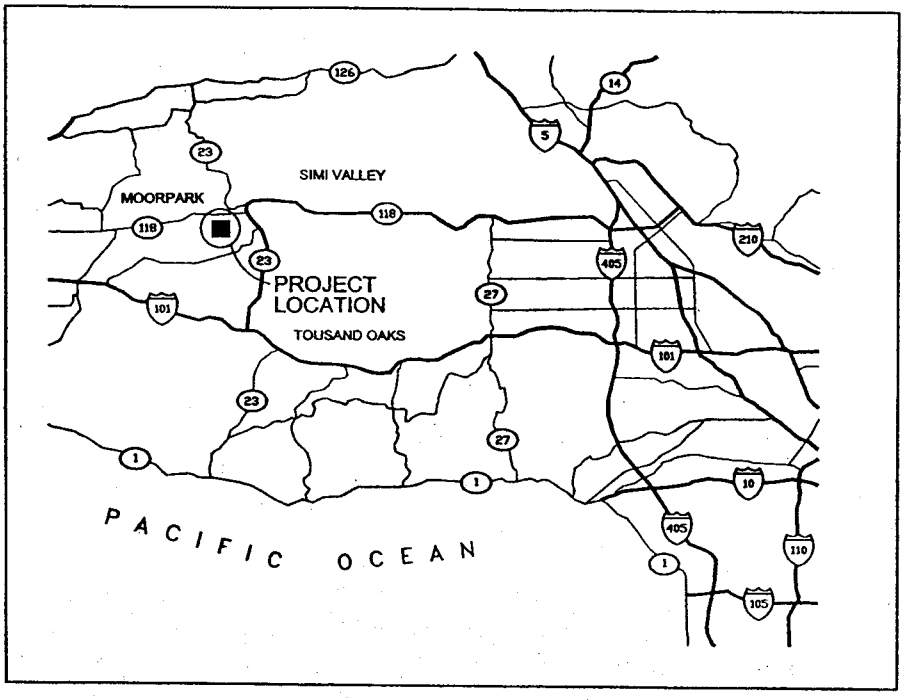
CASTANON
CESPL-CO-RN

MARKHAM
CESPL-CO-RN

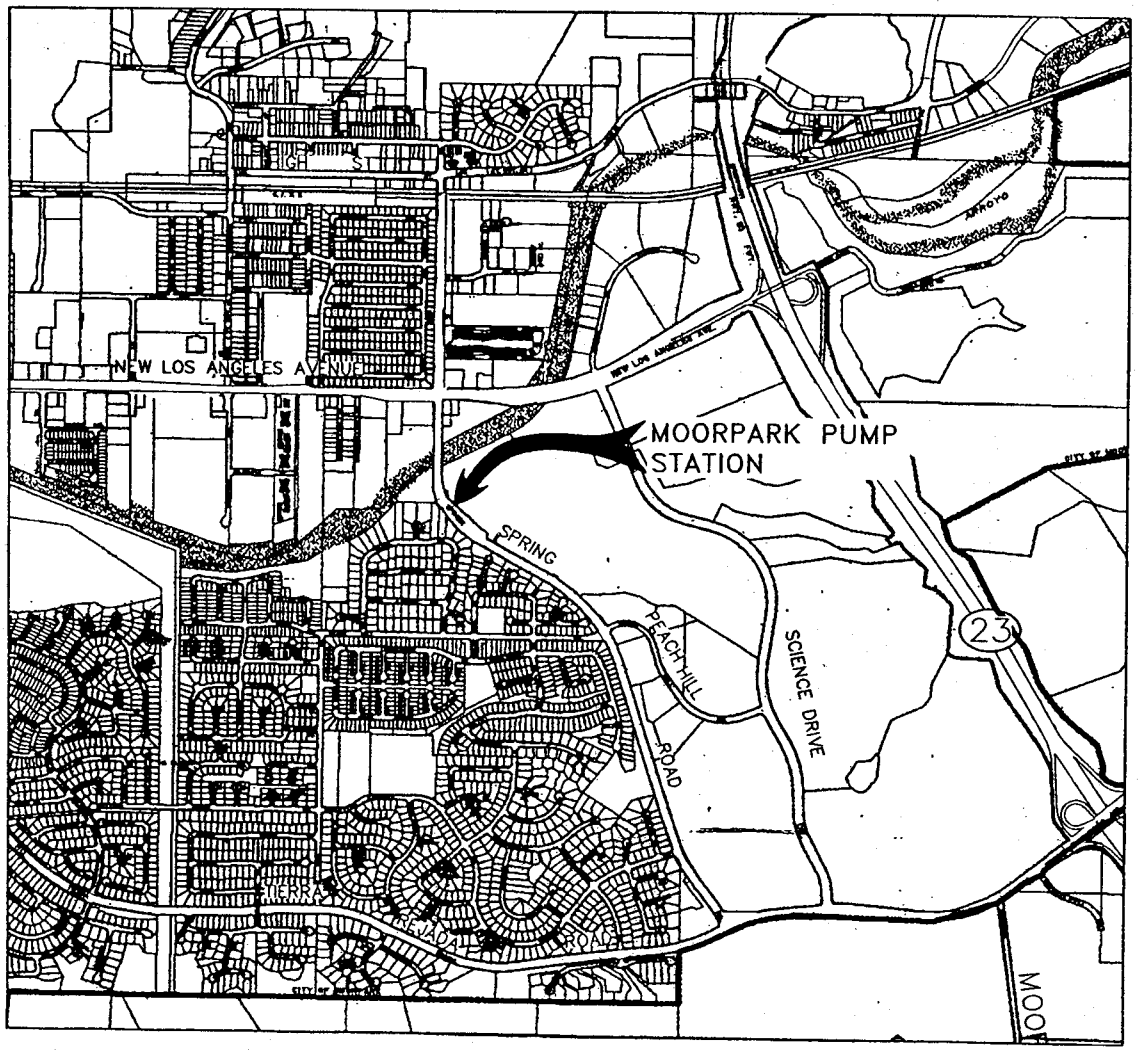
CF: File Copy (Yellow) -200101547-JWM
Clipboard Copy -Los Angeles

Calleguas MWD
Moorpark Pump Station

Attachment 7, Page 1 of 1
Project Location Map



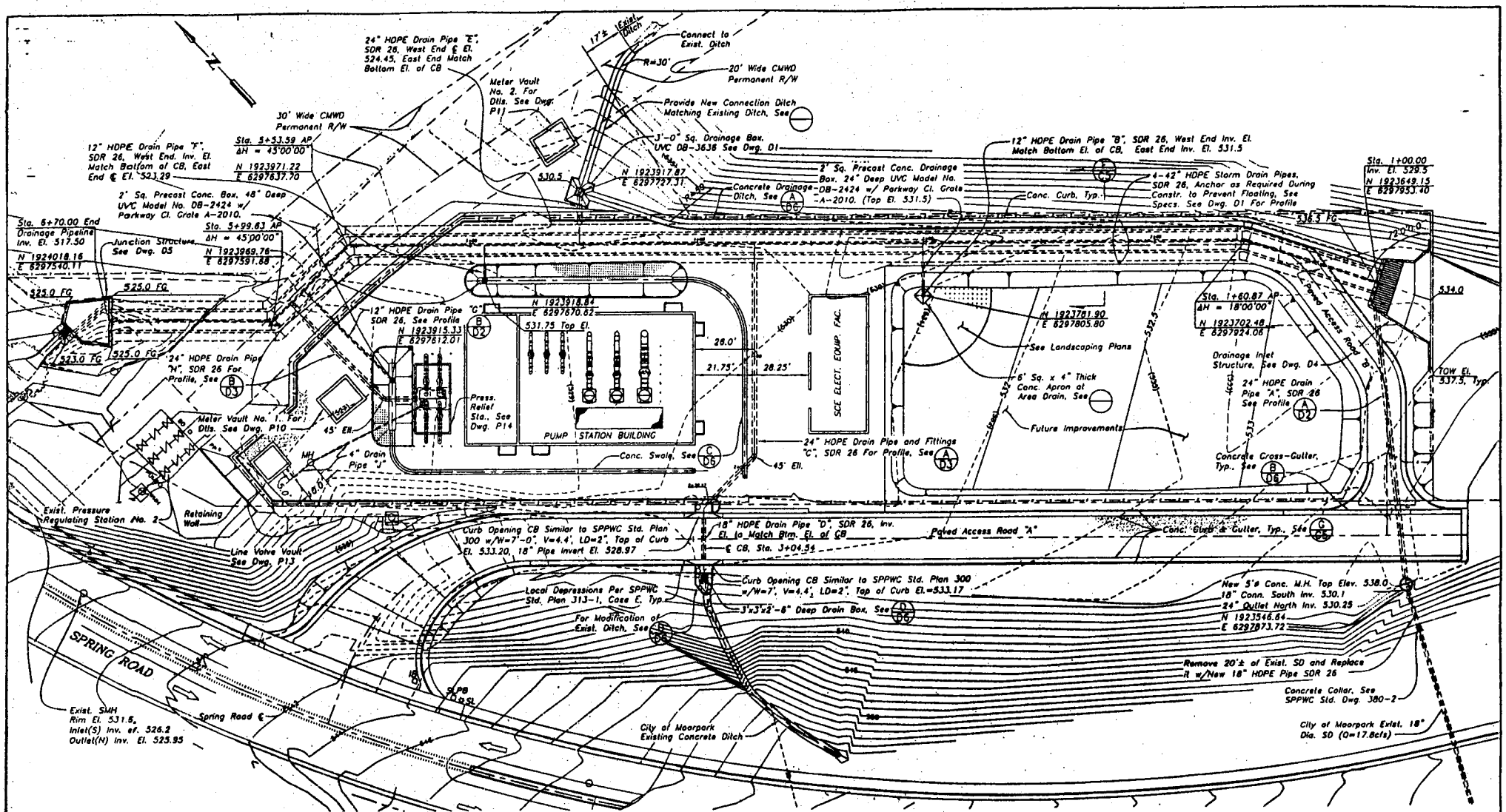
VICINITY MAP
NOT TO SCALE



LOCATION MAP
SCALE: 1 IN = 1000 FT

Calleguas MWD

Moorpark Pump Station



SITE DRAINAGE PLAN

SCALE: 1 IN. = 20 FT.

PRELIMINARY
Date: Sep 25, 2003

NOTE:
1. Rough grade the area prior to installation of pipes and drainage facilities.
2. Drain Pipes for which profile is not shown, install pipes with 30" earth cover minimum and 2% minimum slope.

REVISIONS		
MARK	DATE	DESCRIPTION

CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA

MOORPARK PUMP STATION, PHASE 1

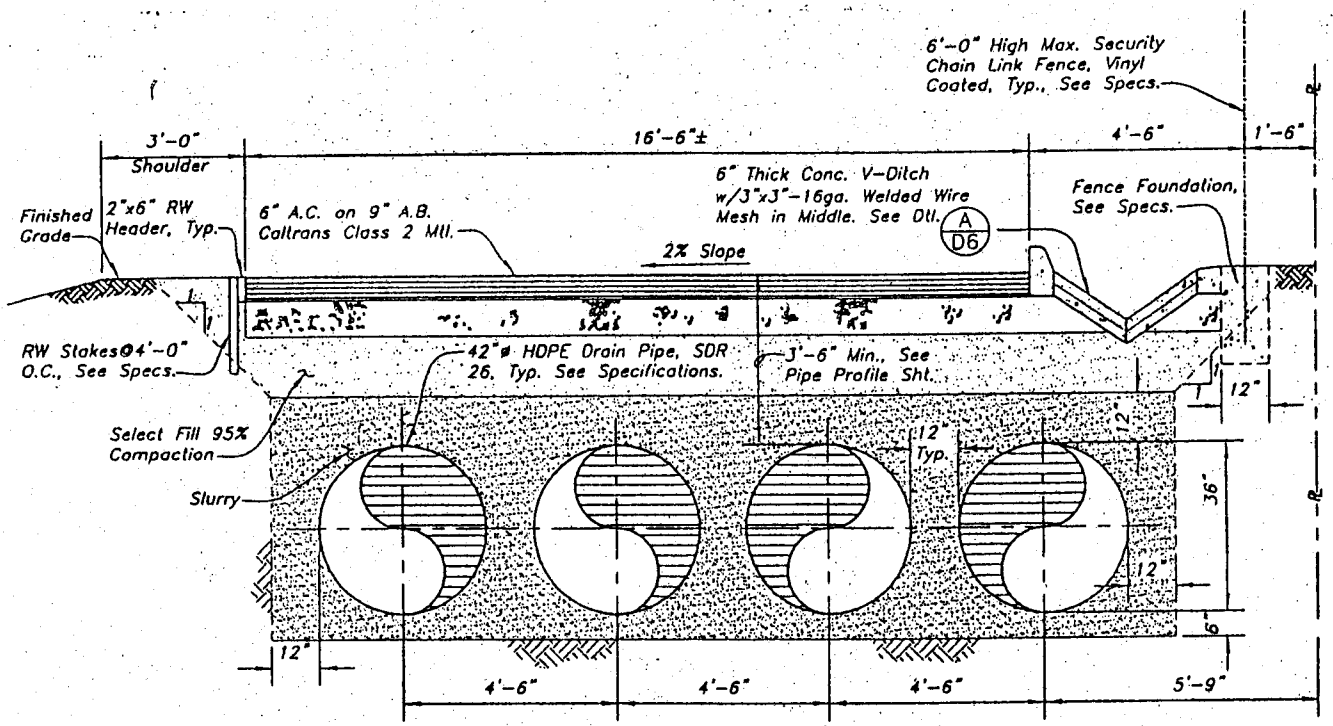
SITE DRAINAGE PLAN

SPEC. NO 463

PERLITER & INGALSBE CONSULTING ENGINEERS

SHEET OF SHEETS

No. 46198 Exp. 12-31-04 CIVIL STATE OF CALIFORNIA



SECTION F

SCALE: 1/2 IN. = 1 FT.

NOTE:
Provide Shoring as Required.